

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the North Mankato City Council was held in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on November 18, 2019. Mayor Dehen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., asking that everyone join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present for roll call: Council Members Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Mayor Dehen, City Administrator Harrenstein, City Attorney Kennedy, Finance Director McCann, Community Development Director Fischer, Public Works Director Host, and City Clerk Van Genderen.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the agenda. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes November 4, 2019**

**Council Member Steiner moved, seconded by Council Member Norland, to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of November 4, 2019. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

- A. Bills and Appropriations.
- B. Res. No. 85-19 Approving Donations/Contributions/Grants.
- C. Res. No. 86-19 Declaring Costs to be Assessed for Municipal Charges.
- D. Res. No. 87-19 Authorizing Application for MNDOT Landscape Partnership Application.

**Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Public Comments Concerning Business Items on the Agenda**

None.

### **Business Items**

#### **Res. No. 88-19 Revoking and Establishing Municipal State Aid Streets.**

City Engineer Dan Sarff appeared before Council and reported Municipal State Aid, or MSA is a network of streets that is eligible for Municipal State Aid Funds. The resolution recommends Pleasant View Drive from Rockford Road to North Ridge Drive and North Ridge Drive from Lookout Drive to Pleasant View Drive be revoked as a Municipal State Aid Street and that Lor Ray Drive from Timm Road to Somerset Lane and Somerset Lane from Lookout Drive to Lor Ray Drive be designated as a Municipal State Aid Street. City Engineer Sarff reported the exchange is necessary because only 20% of City streets are eligible for Municipal State Aid. City Administrator Harrenstein noted that the change would help the City improve Lor Ray Drive and accommodate the growth occurring in the area. He noted that Pleasant View Drive will not be neglected and may become a Municipal State Aid Road in the future. Council Member Whitlock requested clarification on if the areas could still receive Safe Routes to School funding. City Engineer Sarff reported staff would continue to look at opportunities to pursue grant money and work to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

**Council Member Norland moved, seconded by Council Member Steiner, to Adopt Res. No. 88-19 Revoking and Establishing Municipal State Aid Streets. Vote on the motion: Whitlock, Steiner, Norland, Oachs, and Dehen aye; no nays. Motion carried.**

### **Open Forum**

Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, appeared before Council and requested clarification on the conduit bond public hearing notice, which included a signature from the City of Mankato.

Elvis Weichel, 419 Webster Avenue, appeared before Council and stated he believes residents are tired of taxes, and the City should look to build revenue by building hotels. He stated the City should put emergency routes back in place because it is hard for emergency vehicles and snowplows to go through the streets, he stated the City should stay up on sewer inspections, and his property value keeps rising increasing his taxes.

### **City Administrator and Staff Comments**

City Administrator Harrenstein reported the City of Mankato must resolve that the funds obtained from the Conduit Bond are being used in accordance with their land use.

City Administrator Harrenstein reported leaf pick-up continues.

City Administrator Harrenstein noted the City has a new Public Alert System, and residents can visit the City website or call City hall to learn more about opportunities to receive notice of snow emergency declarations. Mayor Dehen noted residents could choose to receive emails, texts, or phone calls.

City Administrator Harrenstein congratulated Caswell Sports Director Tostenson and Caswell Park for receiving the James Farrell Award for the third straight year! The award is given for hosting outstanding national tournaments.

Finance Director McCann reported the Council had received their Proposed 2020 Budget Books, and the Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on December 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. with Council adopting the Tax Levy on December 16, 2019. He noted the tax rate has decreased by over 1% this year.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

Council Member Norland thanked the donors and recognized Jo Robbins for her faithful giving to the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Council Member Oachs thanked all those who came out for the Whose Line Is It Mankato event hosted by MRCI, and commented it was a great cause.

Council Member Oachs wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and invited everyone to participate in Shop Small Saturday on November 30, 2019.

Mayor Dehen reported MRCI is a vital part of the Greater Mankato Area and thanked everyone who came out and supported them at Whose Line Is It Mankato event.

Mayor Dehen also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and invited everyone to participate in Shop Small Saturday on November 30, 2019.

At 7:20 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Steiner, seconded by Council Member Norland, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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City Clerk